

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has imposed a restriction requirement between claims 1-12 and 20-25, drawn to the process and claims 13-15 drawn to the apparatus for carrying out the process.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested. Any search of the process is certain to include a search of the apparatus used to carry out the process, and any search of the apparatus would also turn up the process which uses the apparatus. Accordingly, no additional burden would be placed on the Patent Office in searching both groups together. By contrast, a very great burden will be placed on Applicants if this restriction requirement is maintained. Applicants will be subjected to twice the cost and effort in prosecuting two patent application for an invention that should have been included in one, and will also be subjected to the continuing expense of maintaining two separate patents, whereas only one should be required to cover the full invention.

In addition, an additional burden will be place on the public, in that the full scope of Applicants' invention will not be ascertainable from a single patent, and the public will have to find and study two separate patents to ascertain the full scope of Applicants' exclusive rights.

The great additional burden that will be placed on Applicants and the public in maintaining the restriction requirement is far greater than the slight, if any, inconvenience that will be placed on the Patent Office in withdrawing the restriction requirement.

Furthermore, the two groups ***do, in fact, share a general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1***, as both the process and the apparatus are concerned with the treatment of dust and oxygen-containing exhaust gas. The inventive concept is therefore shared by all

the claims, and the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.


In the event that the Examiner does not find it possible to withdraw the restriction requirement, it is respectfully requested that the non-elected subject matter be rejoined with the elected subject matter upon allowance of elected subject matter.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

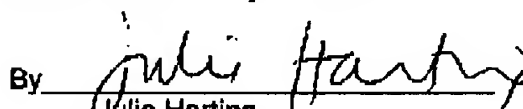
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By   
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Date July 8, 2004